

clerk's office in one large room, which gave ample space for the Librarian to arrange and properly place the books under his charge. The fire that burned the old building originated on the roof, and owing to an unnecessary panic, caused by the announcement that the dome was falling, the people fled from the house and left the Library to its fate.

In the account given of the fire in the Raleigh *Star and Gazette*, of June 23d, 1831, it says:

* * * "The exertions of all hands were then directed to the object of saving the papers in the different offices and protecting the other public buildings in the square.* In this they were happily successful, but most unfortunately the whole State Library was destroyed."

The editor is a little in error in the above statement, as there were upwards of one thousand volumes saved, which formed the nucleus of our present Library, but most of them were in broken sets. No appropriation was made for several years, and on the completion of the present capitol, in 1840, the few books saved were transported to the present Library room, and the one formerly occupied by the State Library assigned to the Supreme Court. As I before mentioned, from this small beginning the present Library sprung.

During the administrations of Governors Dudley, Morehead and Graham, an active interest was manifested in its restoration, and the learned Dr. Cogswell, the purchasing agent of the Astor Library of New York, who was then in Europe, was authorized to buy books for North Carolina to a limited amount—I think forty-five hundred dollars. This duty he performed to the entire satisfaction of the authorities. Our Library has of course increased with years, and contains some valuable and rare works, some in fact that cannot now be procured in any part of the world.

* The buildings alluded to were the Governor's office, the Treasurer's and Secretary of State's, all separate buildings outside of the capitol.